

## REMARKS

Applicant submits herewith for the record a new Power of Attorney/Revocation of Previous Powers signed by the assignee. Applicant also respectfully requests that the mailing address of the applicant's representative be changed to Fulwider Patton Lee & Utecht, LLP, in Los Angeles, California. Applicant respectfully requests that the examiner have the attorney docket number updated to: **ROYCE-66775**.

Applicant has amended paragraph 55 of the specification to correct an obvious typographical error.

The examiner has withdrawn claims 5, 18, 19, 27 and 51 from consideration, and applicant has cancelled those claims without prejudice through this paper. Also through this paper, applicant has cancelled claim 2 and added its limitations to independent claim 1; applicant has cancelled claim 22 and added its limitations to independent claim 13; and applicant has cancelled claim 25 and added its limitations to independent claim 24. Claims 47-49, 59, 60, 67 and 68 are also cancelled by this paper. Claims 12, 28, 29, 35, 39, 41-46, 53, 57 and 58 were cancelled in a previous paper.

After entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 13-17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 30-34, 36-38, 40, 50, 52, 54-56, and 61-66 are pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

The examiner objected to claims 1-27, 30-34, 36-38, 47, 59-60, and 67-68 for informalities in using the expression "or the like." Applicant respectfully disagrees, but has cancelled the expression from the claims. The examiner also objected to claims 55, 56, and 59 for the phrase "having appropriate configuration to support the ankle." Applicant respectfully disagrees that this expression is indefinite, but has amended the claims with the expression "adapted to support the ankle" as suggested by the examiner. Applicant believes that these amendments are not related to patentability.

The examiner rejected claims 1, 6-10, 13, 15-16, 20, 23-23, 30-31, 47-49, 59-60, and 67-68 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,233,767 to Kramer. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection. However, to expedite allowance of all claims and issuance of a patent grant, applicant has cancelled and amended the claims as suggested by the examiner on page 4 of the Office action under the caption "Allowable Subject Matter." Any claims that the examiner has not indicated allowable over Kramer has been cancelled without prejudice (i.e., claims 47-49, 59, 60, 67 and 68 have been cancelled).

In summary, claims 50, 52, 54-56 and 61-66 have been allowed by the examiner. Applicant has amended claim 33 in response to the examiner's objection, so claims 33, 34, 36-38 and 40 are now in condition for allowance.

Pursuant to the examiner's suggestion, applicant has cancelled allowable claim 2 and added its limitations to independent claim 1. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-11 are now in condition for allowance.

Pursuant to the examiner's suggestion, applicant has cancelled allowable claim 22 and added its limitations to independent claim 13. Claims 13, 14-17, 20, 21 and 23 are now in condition for allowance.

Pursuant to the examiner's suggestion, applicant has cancelled allowable claim 25 and added its limitations to independent claim 24. Claims 24, 26, and 30-32 are now in condition for allowance.

As a result, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 13-17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 30-34, 36-38, 40, 50, 52, 54-56, and 61-66 (i.e., all remaining pending claims) are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested and allowance of all claims at an early date is solicited.

Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees or additional fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-2425. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

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